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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHAND HUMAN SERVICES
Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE Edward N. Brandt, Jr., MD, PhD Assistant Secretary for Health

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Public Health Service has provided additional information to all establishments that collect blood and plasma on steps to be taken to prevent the spread of AIDS. A new heat treated factor VIII concentrate has become commercially available which should further reduce the risk of AIDS to individuals with hemophilia. The Conference of State and Territorial Epidemiologists adopted a resolution that AIDS should become a reportable disease in all States and acted to improve reporting and surveillance procedures for AIDS.

Recently, there has been increased concern expressed as to the nature of the risk of this disease to the general public; concern generated because of reports of the spread of AIDS through routine family contact and through heterosexual contact. These are important findings, but they are not entirely new findings either to us or to the public. It is important to note that, in the months since these observations. there has been no appreciable change in the percentage of AIDS patients (approximately 6 percent) who do not fit into one or more of the four previously identified high risk populations. In addition, there have been no cases of suspected transmission of AIDS from a patient to a health care provider, nor have there been any cases of suspected transmission of AIDS from laboratory specimens to laboratory

workers. It is important to emphasize that evidence to date indicates AIDS is *not* spread by casual contact. On the contrary, our findings indicate that AIDS is spread through sexual contact, through the sharing of needles by drug abusers and, less commonly, through blood or blood products, or both. For these reasons, there is no cause for fear among the general public that they may develop AIDS through casual contact with an AIDS patient.

Having said that to date there appears to be no cause for general public alarm, it is equally important to emphasize that there is *great* urgency for medical science to exert our maximum effort to identify the cause of this mysterious and cruel illness and to develop effective therapeutic and preventive measures in the shortest time humanly possible. The articles which follow in this issue of *Public Health Reports* summarize our efforts to date. They should provide not only useful resource material to each of the readers of this journal, but serve as an important chronicling of current events and new initiatives in our efforts to combat AIDS. I look forward to the day when I will be able to report on the answers to the major AIDS questions which still await definition.

Edward N. Brandt, Jr., MD, PhD Assistant Secretary for Health

AIDS Hotline, Bulletin Launched

A special initiative to inform the public about acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) has been announced by Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret M. Heckler.

A toll-free hotline on AIDS (800: 342-AIDS) became available to the public at the beginning of July. Employees of the U.S. Public Health Service answer calls between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm EDT, Monday through Friday. Callers from Hawaii and Alaska may phone collect on 202: 245-6867.

For health professionals, researchers, and State or local officials and other groups concerned with AIDS, the Public Health Service has launched a biweekly "AIDS Information Bulletin," which describes PHS projects to determine the cause and find treatments for the disease. The bulletin will be issued on

the first and third Mondays of every month. To receive it (free) write: Office of Public Affairs, PHS, Hubert H. Humphrey Bldg., Rm. 721H, 200 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.

For the general public, PHS has developed a new leaflet, "Facts on AIDS," which contains the latest information on the disease. Free copies of the leaflet, which will be revised and reprinted as new information becomes available, can also be ordered from the PHS Office of Public Affairs.

By late June 1983, AIDS had been diagnosed in 1,641 Americans, and there had been 644 deaths from the disease. The Public Health Service has targeted more than \$14.5 million for AIDS research in fiscal year 1983, and the Administration has requested congressional authority to reprogram an additional \$12 million for AIDS this year from other Department of Health and Human Services funds.

'An effective means of prevention is not available today because the agent of AIDS and the pathway of its transmission are unknown: clinicians are therefore forced to focus on allevation of symptoms.'

infectious—period of AIDS, a continued rise in morbidity and mortality for an extended period must be anticipated. As one scientist close to the NIH research effort on AIDS said recently: "Optimism about the ultimate conquest of AIDS is based on the fact that the finest minds and most advanced technology are focused on the problem today. Given the present state of our knowledge and the complexities of the problem, however, one must conclude realistically that the epidemic of AIDS will get worse before it gets better."

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NIH Scientific Workshops on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

Since the beginning of 1983, components of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have held three major scientific workshops to share information about acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) with the scientific community and with the public and to encourage additional research on the problem.

SAIDS Workshop

The Division of Research Resources (DRR), the NIH component that supports seven regional primate research centers around the country, held a workshop on March 2 on a naturally occurring disease in monkeys, termed simian acquired immune deficiency syndrome (SAIDS), reported by two regional primate research centers. Clinical findings in the monkeys bear considerable resemblance to those in human AIDS, and it is hoped that further investigation of the occurrence will provide useful information to those studying human AIDS. Control of SAIDS among the monkeys could be an important step toward understanding of AIDS and would help preserve the animal colonies, which are a valuable resource for other research projects.

The New England Regional Primate Research Center, a Harvard Medical School facility, reported SAIDS in 15 macaques (Macaca cyclopis and Macaca mulatta), and the California Primate Research Center at Davis experienced four separate outbreaks since 1969 involving approximately 200 monkeys (M. mulatta and Macaca arctoides). It is not known whether the disorders at the two centers are identical; their etiology is unknown. The disease in monkeys is apparently spread by close contact. The outbreaks reported at the meeting occurred in monkeys living in groups housed in separate corrals. The most recent outbreak in California occurred when 56 new M. mulatta (most of them females) were placed in August of 1981 in a corral holding 8 seemingly normal female monkeys who had survived an earlier epidemic in that corral. By May 1983, 32 of the animals, all females and mostly young animals, showed signs of SAIDS, and 27 died. Four of the eight original monkeys were among those stricken with SAIDS.

SAIDS appears to be comparable to human AIDS in that the animals have opportunistic infections, including Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, sarcoma, and lymphomas (a very uncommon finding among monkeys). Preceding the onset of these serious illnesses, fever, weight loss, diarrhea, and generalized lymphadenopathy are seen. But there are some important differences: monkeys with SAIDS have not uniformly been found to have the dramatic reversals in T-cell ratios common in AIDS. This may, however, be because the monoclonal antibody techniques applied in studies of human AIDS are not available for the other primate species. Another difference is that many SAIDS animals have a progressive decrease in immunoglobulin levels and show susceptibility to bacterial infections normally associated with immunoglobulin deficiency. This is not seen in AIDS patients, who, instead, are vulnerable principally to intracellular diseases. Moreover, while AIDS has been seen primarily in male homosexuals, SAIDS is seen in both males and females.

Despite these differences, it is generally agreed that continued research on SAIDS is important in learning more about human AIDS. Stimulated by discussions at the workshop, scientists at the primate research centers and at NIH are attempting to transmit a hypothetical infectious agent by inoculating a small number of normal monkeys with tissues taken from monkeys with SAIDS.

AIDS Conference for Viral Disease Experts

On April 5-6, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) invited approximately 70 scientific experts on viral diseases to share expertise and experiences related to AIDS. Participants included investigators who have been successful in identifying previously unknown infectious agents, including some viruses now commonly seen in AIDS patients. At the meeting, scientists reviewed characteristics of viruses such as cytomegalovirus, adenoviruses, retroviruses, and parvoviruses; discussed the possible relationship of these viruses to the symptoms and other clinical findings common in AIDS patients; and described methodologies used in working with the viruses. The ability of particular viruses to change their attack from one species to another was also explored in order to pursue the possibility that an animal virus may have become active in man. Viruses discussed at the workshop included some that have caused similar, although not identical, diseases in animals.

Participants agreed that the broadest range of virological diagnostic techniques should be used to provide maximum opportunities for finding an infectious agent in AIDS. They reported that extensive testing for viruses has already begun. Body fluid samples have been injected into animals, both primates and rodents, to try to transmit the disease. Scientists are using a wide variety of tissue cultures in attempts to identify new agents and are testing the blood of AIDS patients for antibodies that might indicate exposure to new or unusual viruses. The participants agreed that the extension of this research, especially efforts to transmit AIDS to susceptible primates, must have the highest priority.

A major result of this meeting was the exchange of current AIDS information among some of the most influential infectious disease investigators in this country. Their interest and participation in this expanding effort are vital to the goal of identifying the infectious agent responsible for this disease. The workshop also stimulated plans for the exchange of valuable resources such as patient blood samples and other tissues and materials. The scientists also discussed the collaborative use of new technologies such as immunoelectron microscopy and molecular biology techniques to provide greater sensitivity in the detection of new viruses.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the National Cancer Institute and the NIAID announced that they would soon issue a joint request for cooperative agreement applications for research to find the agent that causes AIDS. The two Institutes will set aside approximately \$2 million to fund the first year's awards.

AIDS Workshop on Blood and Blood Products

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's (NHLBI) Division of Blood Resources held a workshop on March 15, attended by 35 scientists, clinicians, and administrators from around the country, to review recent developments relating to AIDS, with special emphasis on possible transmission of the disorder by blood and blood products. Epidemiological, immunological, virological, and clinical aspects of AIDS in recipients of blood products were presented and discussed.

At the time of the meeting, 14 hemophiliac patients with AIDS had been identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), but, since there is no specific test to diagnose the disease, some investigators could not agree unequivocally that all had AIDS. Its possible transmission by blood products also has not yet been firmly established. Data were presented which confirmed observations that normal hemophiliacs, as well as those with AIDS, show abnormal immunological profiles. More than half of the normal hemophiliacs tested by the CDC showed abnormal T-cell helper-to-suppressor ratios. Normal hemophiliacs also have circulating immune complexes and abnormal in vitro lymphocyte stimulation responses to both nonspecific mitogens and specific antigens. It is becoming increasingly clear that hemophiliacs who receive cryoprecipitate display abnormal T-cell helper-to-supressor ratios similar to those hemophiliacs who receive Factor VIII concentrates. Furthermore, it was reported that there is some relationship between the amount of Factor VIII concentrate a hemophilia patient receives and the degree of the abnormality in the T-cell helper-to-suppressor ratio.

Representatives of CDC reported on 12 patients who may have developed AIDS subsequent to receiving one or more blood transfusions. In each case, at least one suspect donor has been identified; half of the cases are in females and all are from endemic areas. Several new potential surrogate tests for AIDS were described at the meeting, including tests for alpha-1-thymosin, beta-4-thymosin, beta-2-microglobulin, and acid-labile alpha interferon; all these are in a preliminary phase of testing and require further investigation.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants developed a list of possible research areas useful to explore. These included the development of specific or surrogate tests for AIDS, prospective studies on the variability of the various in vitro lymphocyte tests used in the study of AIDS, immunologic study of lymphadenopathy patients without AIDS, study of the role of granulocyte function in hemophilia patients with AIDS, epidemiologic study of the immunological profile of hemophilia patients from geographic areas where AIDS has not appeared, and study of host factors that determine susceptibility to AIDS. Two suggestions—a study of tests to detect those at risk for transmitting AIDS through blood and an epidemiologic, longitudinal study on blood recipients-were presented recently to the Blood Diseases and Resources Advisory Committee of the NHLBI. It is expected that, following review by the NHLBI Advisory Council in mid-May, requests for proposals or applications will be issued to encourage the scientific community to prepare research project applications in those areas.

EDUCATION NOTES

Current Issues and Trends in Controlling Occupational Exposures to RF/Microwave Radiation. The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, a National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health resource center at the University of Utah, will present this course on October 11-13, 1983, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

It is designed for safety and health professionals including industrial hygienists and safety engineers.

Topics will include RF/Microwave Radiation, Electromagnetic Radiation, Health Effects, Instrumentation, Representative Industries, and Survey Procedures. The registration fee is \$350. For further information, contact Katharine Blosch, Director of Continuing Education, RMCOEH, University of Utah, Bldg. 512, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112 or telephone 801: 581-5710.

Annual joint conference on industrial hygiene and safety. The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCO-EH), the Utah Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and the Utah Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers are jointly sponsoring the 3rd Annual Joint Utah Conference on Industrial Hygiene and Safety. The conference

will be held September 20-22, 1983, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The RMCO-EH is a National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health resource center at the University of Utah.

The conference will provide a forum for the review of current scientific technology in occupational safety and health, and for the exchange of information and ideas among health and safety professionals.

For further information, contact RMCOEH, Katharine C. Blosch, Director, Continuing Education, University of Utah, Bldg. 512, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112 or telephone 801: 581-5710.

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